



Who Said

Jennifer Michael Hecht

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"Jennifer Michael Hecht writes delightfully tricky poems that wildly bend the sense of our language."—Billy Collins, former US Poet Laureate

"Hecht's rhymes are irregular, gymnastic, pointed, and fun; she's found what so many would-be populists seek, an idiom entirely conversational yet able to sustain unexpected ideas."—*The Believer*

Who Said is a meditation on life's profound questions told through playful engagement with iconic poems and lyrics. Jennifer Michael Hecht's book is a magic echo chamber wherein great poems come back to us, altered to fit the concerns of our moment. This wildly interpretive treatment of Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, and the rock band Nirvana is original, occasionally hilarious, and always moving.

From "Not Stopping By the Woods on a Snowy Evening":

"Promises to keep," was a lie, he had nothing. Through the woods. Over the river and into the pain. It is an addict's stalk of quitting as she's smacking at a vein. He was always going into the woods. It was he who wrote, "The only way

around is through." You'd think a shrink, but no, a poet. He saw the woods and knew. The forest is the one that holds promises. The woods are lovely, dark, and deep, they fill with a quiet snow. Miles are traveled as we sleep. He steers

his horse off the road. Among the trees now, the blizzard is a dusting. Holes in the canopy make columns of snowstorm, lit from above. His little horse thinks it is queer. They go deeper, sky gets darker. It's the darkest night of the year . . .

Jennifer Michael Hecht is the author of several nonfiction titles, most recently *The Happiness Myth* (HarperOne). She teaches at The New School and lives in the BoCoCa neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York.

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